

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

ERIN MONTGOMERY,

Plaintiff,

v.

USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY,
a foreign entity,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:20-CV-0264-TOR

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

The Court, having been advised and upon the consent and stipulation of Plaintiff, Erin Montgomery, and Defendant, USAA Casualty Insurance Company (“USAA CIC”) (collectively the “Parties”) enters the following Agreed Protective Order and Stipulations (“Agreement and Order”):

1.0 DEFINITIONS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1.1 As used in this order, the word:

1.1.1 “Party” or “Parties” shall include the Plaintiff Erin Montgomery and Defendant USAA Casualty Insurance Company (“USAA CIC”) and each of their employees, agents, representatives, and attorneys (including both outside counsel and inside counsel).

1.1.2 “Person(s)” shall include any “Party” or non-party to this action, whether an individual, corporation, partnership, company, unincorporated association, governmental agency, or other business or governmental entity.

1.1.3 “Confidential Material” or “Confidential Document” shall mean the class of document(s) referred to as “Knowledge Delivery Materials” as used by USAA CIC in the course of its business, and produced in response to Plaintiff’s Requests for Production of Documents.¹ Plaintiff specifically seeks Knowledge Delivery Materials applicable to Washington UIM claims from June 11, 2018 to present. All Confidential Materials shall be Bates stamped and marked as confidential with a watermark or legend. By agreement between the Parties (confirmed in writing) additional documents may be designated as Confidential Material subject to the terms of this Stipulation and Order.

1.1.4 “Discovering Party” shall mean the Party who has requested the production of documents designated as Confidential Material under this Agreement and Order.

1.1.5 “Producing Party” shall mean the Party who has produced documents designated as Confidential Material under this Agreement and Order.

1.2 USAA CIC’s Trade Secrets and Proprietary Information:

USAA CIC contends the documents requested by Plaintiff Erin Montgomery and designated Confidential Material represent and/or reflect trade secrets or other confidential and proprietary research, development or commercial information. The Parties agree USAA CIC has a legitimate interest in protecting trade secrets, confidential and proprietary information. The Parties agree the protections within this Agreement are adequate.

1.3 Nature of this Agreement and Order

The nature of this Agreement and Order is to protect USAA CIC’s member and business interests in its own intellectual property, information, and processes. The insurance, banking, and investment industries are highly competitive markets, and disclosure of USAA CIC’s trade secrets, confidential or proprietary information could cause irreparable and significant harm to USAA CIC and its members. This Agreement and Order is intended to prevent this foreseeable harm and any related unforeseeable harm.

1.4 Public Health & Safety Not At Issue

USAA CIC contends that the documents and information at issue do not involve the public health and safety, a public entity, or issues important to the general public.

1.5 Good Faith Discovery Cooperation:

It is the purpose of this Agreement and Order and the desire of USAA CIC to make the broadest range of reasonably relevant documents available to the Plaintiff Erin Montgomery without waiving any trade secrets, privilege, or otherwise proprietary information and without subjecting the Parties and the Court to numerous discovery motions.

¹ The Knowledge Delivery Materials are similar to the confidential business documents this Court ruled were subject to a Protective Order in *Algaier v. Bank of America N.A.*, 2015 WL3795909, No. 13-CV-0380-TOR.

1.6 Reliance on this Agreement

The Parties agree to limit dissemination of any documents and information as set forth in this Agreement and Order and are materially relying on the representations and covenants contained within.

2.0 SCOPE OF AGREEMENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER:

2.1 Purpose of This Agreement and Order:

It is the purpose of this Agreement and Order that USAA CIC will be provided reasonable assurance that:

2.1.1 The documents produced by USAA CIC will be used in this litigation and this litigation only;

2.1.2 The documents produced by USAA CIC will not be used for commercial purposes;

2.1.3 The documents produced by USAA CIC will not be used for non-litigation purposes.

2.2 USAA CIC is relying on this Agreement and Order, and would not have produced the documents and information otherwise.

2.3 The documents in which USAA CIC requests protection are highly confidential business documents. Similar to this Court's holding in *Algaier v. Bank of America N.A.*, 2015 WL3795909, No. 13-CV-0380-TOR, USAA CIC has sufficiently demonstrated that it would be placed at a competitive disadvantage with other insurance companies without entry of a protective order protecting USAA CIC's sensitive and confidential documents from public dissemination.

2.4 USAA CIC's production under this Agreement and Order does not admit or concede the documents or information are relevant or admissible in this litigation.

2.5 This Agreement and Order survives the end of the above styled litigation.²

2.6 The Parties agree good cause exists for this Agreement and for the Court to enter this Order.³

2.7 Compliance with this Agreement and Order will be a material term to any settlement agreement reached in this case.

IT IS THEREFORE, STIPULATED BY THE PARTIES AND ORDERED BY THE COURT:

² The Plaintiff "will suffer no prejudice with the entry of this Order, entry of the proposed protective order will not prevent their access to the confidential documents for use in these proceedings; rather, by the terms of the proposed order, "[a] receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation." *Algaier v. Bank of America N.A.*, 2015 WL3795909, No. 13-CV-0380-TOR.

³ The requisite "good cause" has been shown to seal documents produced in discovery pursuant to the Court's Jury Trial Scheduling Order and Fed. Civ. Rule of Procedure 26 (c) (stating that if "good cause" is shown in discovery, a district court may issue "any order which justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense.") Rule 26(c) gives the district court much flexibility in balancing and protecting interests of private parties.). *Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178-80 (9th Cir. 2006).

3.0 DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED BY USAA:

3.1 Procedure for production of documents:

3.2 Any part of the Confidential Materials produced for inspection and made available for copying in this action by any Party to this litigation or any third parties after the date of entry of this Order may be designated Confidential Material or Confidential Documents. Such a designation shall be made by placing a watermark or legend inscribing the word "Confidential" on the face of each page of each document so designated.

3.3 Such Confidential Documents in whole or in part or in any form, and the information within, may be used and disclosed solely for the preparation and trial of this litigation only, including all appeals. Copies of any discovery designated "confidential" shall only be provided to Parties or persons as identified within this Agreement and Order.

3.4 The Parties and their counsel agree to use reasonable efforts not to disclose the information to any third person or entity whatsoever, except to (the following are collectively referred to as "Qualified Person(s)"):

- a. Plaintiff Erin Montgomery;
- b. counsel of record and their associated attorneys in this action on behalf of a Party to this litigation;
- c. employees or agents of counsel of record including regularly employed support staff, paralegal and clerical personnel who have a direct responsibility for assisting such counsel in the preparation and trial of litigation, including appeals;
- d. outside consultants and experts and their employees or agents retained by retained counsel or any Party to this litigation for the purpose of assisting in the preparation and trial of this litigation, including appeals;
- e. the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington case number 2:20-CV-0264-TOR ("the Court"), and court personnel, including stenographic reporters regularly employed by the court;
- f. stenographic or video reporters who are otherwise engaged in such proceedings as are necessarily incident to the conduct of this litigation;
- g. witnesses or prospective witnesses requested by counsel to give testimony or otherwise to prepare for any deposition, hearing, trial or other proceeding in this litigation.

Any person or group of people who do not each meet the criteria of a Qualified Person as defined above, shall be deemed to be a "non-qualified person" or "non-qualified persons."

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1 **4.0 DEPOSITIONS:**

2 4.1. Deposition testimony shall be designated as Confidential Material under the terms of
 3 this Agreement and Order only if counsel for a Party advises the court reporter and
 4 opposing counsel such designation at the deposition, or by written designation to all
 5 Parties and the court reporter within ten (10) business days after receiving the
 6 deposition transcript. The court reporter shall note on the record the designation of
 7 Confidential Material and shall separately transcribe those portions of the testimony
 8 so designated and shall mark the face of such portion of the transcript as "Confidential
 9 Material." The Parties may use Confidential Material during any deposition provided
 10 the witness is apprised of the terms of this Agreement and Order and executes the
 acknowledgment attached as Exhibit "A" excepting witnesses who are officers,
 directors or managing agents or current employees of defendant USAA CIC or who
 are designated by defendant USAA CIC for depositions conducted pursuant to FRCP
 30(b)(6), The Parties may use Confidential Material during a deposition only if the
 room is first cleared of all non-qualified persons.

11 4.2 In the event that any Party desires to contest the designation of any documents,
 12 information, or testimony as Confidential Material that Party shall, after requesting
 13 and being denied re-designation within a timely manner, shall file an objection with
 14 the Court and request a hearing on the matter. At such hearing, the Party designating
 the information as Confidential Material shall have the burden to establish that Party's
 right to protection of the Confidential Material. All such documents, information or
 testimony shall be treated as Confidential Material until the Court makes a decision
 regarding the status of the documents, information and testimony. The provisions of
 FRCP 37(b) shall apply as to any objection sustained by the Court at the behest of
 plaintiff.

17 4.3 Any papers filed with the Court in these actions which include, attach or make
 18 reference to Confidential Material (or information derived from Confidential
 19 Material) shall be considered Confidential Material governed by the terms of this
 Agreement and Order, and shall be filed under seal and shall remain sealed with the
 Office of the Clerk so long as the materials retain the status of Confidential Material.

21 **5.0 VIEWING OF DOCUMENTS BY THIRD PARTIES:**

22 5.1 Possession of Documents by Third Parties:

23 The undersigned counsel as counsel who become the custodian of the Confidential
 24 Material produced by a Party shall not grant possession of the documents to any
 25 other person or entity except as expressly authorized by the terms of this Agreement
 and Order.

26 5.2 Viewing of Documents by Third Parties is Permissible:

Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and Order, the undersigned counsel may permit other persons or entities to possess and to view documents produced under this Agreement and Order.

5.3 All Confidential Material produced or provided in the course of this litigation, and the information obtained from examining the same, shall be used solely for the purposes of the proceedings in this litigation, and not for any other purpose. The Confidential Material shall not be disclosed to anyone, either orally or in writing, except in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and Order.

5.4 The Parties do not waive, and expressly retain the right to assert in the Action or other investigation or lawsuit, the application of any common law or statutory privileges or any theory of immunity from disclosure of the confidential documents, in whole or in part, or in any form, and any other confidential information

a. Nothing in this Agreement and Order shall preclude a Party from seeking and obtaining, on an appropriate showing, additional protection (or relief from protection) with respect to the confidentiality of information or documents produced in the action.

b. Nothing in this Agreement and Order is to be construed or used as a waiver of any rights or procedural or evidentiary objections or privileges under either the applicable Rules of Civil Procedure or the Rules of Evidence.

c. This Agreement and Order is entered into for the purposes of this action only, and shall not apply to documents or things produced by any Party in any other litigation.

d. The Parties agree and acknowledge that before disclosing any Confidential Material to a Qualified Person, as defined above in Section 3 of this Agreement and Order, the Party shall provide to the Qualified Person a copy of this Agreement and Order and each Qualified Person shall execute a copy of the attached **AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY PROTECTIVE ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** (Exhibit "A"). The executed copy of Exhibit "A" shall be retained by the attorney who has disclosed the Confidential Material to the Qualified Person.

6.0 NO WAIVER BY INADVERTENT PRODUCTION:

If any Confidential Material is inadvertently provided to a Discovering Party without being marked as confidential in accordance with this Order, the failure to so mark the material shall not be deemed a waiver of its confidentiality, privilege, or right to object. Until the material is designated as confidential by the Producing Party however, the Discovering Party shall be entitled to treat the material as non-confidential. When the material is designated as Confidential Material, the Discovering Party shall take prompt steps to assure the material is marked as confidential or returned to the Producing Party for confidential designation

pursuant to this Agreement and Order. The Producing Party shall bear the costs of designating and marking the Confidential Material as such.

7.0 RETURN OF DOCUMENTS AT END OF LITIGATION:

Within ten (10) days after the final settlement or termination of action, it is the obligation of the Discovering Party to return or destroy all Confidential Material provided by the Producing Party. The Discovering Party shall return or destroy all Confidential Material, including all copies, notes, tapes, papers and any other medium containing, summarizing, excerpting, or otherwise embodying any Confidential Material, except that the Discovering Party shall be entitled to destroy, rather than return (a) any Confidential Material stored in or by data processing equipment and (b) work product memoranda or pleadings embodying Confidential Material, subject to State Bar rules.

The Discovering Party will confirm in writing to the Producing Party its compliance with this Section 7.0.

8.0 PHOTOCOPYING PROHIBITED BEYOND THIS LITIGATION:

The Confidential Material shall not be photographed, photocopied or reproduced in any manner except in preparation of this litigation.

9.0 PUBLICATION PROHIBITED:

The Confidential Material shall not be published or reproduced in any manner on the internet, blogs, bulletin boards, email, newspapers, magazines, bulletins, or other media available publicly or privately. Likewise, persons may not verbally share the Confidential Material to non-qualified persons.

10.0 ALL DOCUMENTS REVEALED TO THE COURT SHALL BE SEALED:

All motions or other documents filed with the Court, if any, which reveal any portion of the Confidential Material shall be:

- 10.1 Filed in a sealed envelope directly with the presiding Judge.
- 10.2 Considered sealed documents until further order of the Court, if any.
- 10.3 All proceedings in connection therewith shall be conducted in chambers, if allowed by the court.
- 10.4 Any records made of such proceedings, if any, shall also be sealed.

11.0 NON-WAIVER:

This Agreement and Order is not, and shall not be interpreted as, a waiver by any Party of any right to claim in this lawsuit or otherwise, that the documents or information are privileged or otherwise undiscoverable.

1 **12.0 VIOLATION OF ORDER:**

2 Upon an alleged violation of this Agreement and Order, the Court on its own motion or on
3 the motion of any Party may grant relief as it deems appropriate in law or equity. Should any
4 provision of this Stipulation be struck or held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all
5 remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

6 **13. LCivR 37 Meet and Conferral**

7 Pursuant to LCivR37 both parties have conferred in an effort to resolve the dispute without
8 court action. Defendant USAA CIC and Plaintiff Montgomery agree to this stipulated
9 protective order.

10 IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED March 30, 2021.



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Thomas O. Rice
THOMAS O. RICE
United States District Judge

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2 AGREED AND APPROVED:

3 I have read the above, agree the above stipulation is binding without endorsement by the Court, and
4 agree on behalf of myself, my firm and my clients to abide by the terms set forth.

5 March 30, 2021

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13
14 and

15 March 30, 2021

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19 Scott Shawver (WSBA No. 24048)

Attorney for Plaintiff

20 Erin Montgomery

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

ERIN MONTGOMERY,

Plaintiff,

v.

USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY,
a foreign entity,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:20-CV-0264-TOR

**AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY
STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION**

I hereby attest to my understanding that information or documents designated as Confidential Material or Confidential Documents and the information contained therein are provided to me pursuant to the terms and conditions and restrictions of the **AGREED PROTECTIVE ORDER AND STIPULATION** entered in the above styled case. I have been given a copy, read, and understand the **AGREED PROTECTIVE ORDER AND STIPULATION**; and that I agree to be bound by it, and consent to the personal jurisdiction of the Court that signed the **AGREED PROTECTIVE ORDER AND STIPULATION**, for enforcement.

I further agree that I shall not disclose to others in any manner, except in accordance with that **AGREED PROTECTIVE ORDER AND STIPULATION**, any Confidential Material (or Confidential Documents) as defined in that Agreement and Order, and that such Confidential Material shall be used only for the purposes of the captioned legal proceeding. I understand that the unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Material could result in the violation of the rights to privacy,

1 and/or serious economic harm to the party providing the Confidential Material which could continue
2 to cause harm even after the termination of that legal proceeding. I further agree and attest to my
3 understanding that, in the event that I fail to abide by the terms of that **AGREED PROTECTIVE**
4 **ORDER AND STIPULATION**, I may be subject to sanctions, including sanctions by way of
5 contempt of court, imposed by the Court for such a failure.
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8 Signature: _____

9 [Typed or Printed Name]
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